

REMARKS

Allowability of claims 3, 4 and 5 is noted with appreciation. Claim 3 has been amended at line 4 merely to recite an inherent aspect of the disclosed invention, and dependency of claim 4 has been amended to provide adequate antecedent basis for recited elements.

Rejected claims 1 and 2 have been cancelled.

Remaining dependent claims 6-9 have been amended to depend variously from allowable claim 3, and are therefore further restricted by such recitations as “each aperture is adapted to be closed by a door”, or “each manual coating station comprises a standing floor and a rear wall disposed parallel to the conveying direction (T) of the workpieces, and wherein the standing floor is freely accessible from the side opposite the rear wall”, or “a partial roof cover of each manual coating station is integrated with the rear wall”, or “lamps are mounted on the outside of the compartment to illuminate the coating place of each manual coating station”.

These aspects of the invention as claimed variously in combination with the subject matter of allowable claim 3 are not disclosed or suggested by the cited references which, as the Examiner noted, are deficient of another manual coating station provided downstream of a second aperture for the workpiece in a second end wall of the compartment, and are therefore

deficient of disclosure of the associated features as claimed in these dependent claims. It is therefore respectfully submitted that independent claim 3 and the claims 4-9 that now variously depend therefrom are all patentably distinguishable over the cited art.

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 3-9 are solicited.

In the event the examiner elects to continue rejection of claims not previously indicated to be allowable, he is respectfully requested to enter this amendment in order to simplify the issues for appeal.

Respectfully submitted,
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